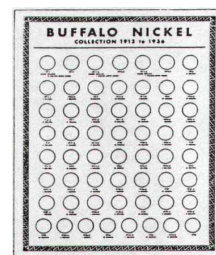


Coin Board News

For Collectors of Antique Coin Boards

Number 30 — Spring 2014



TAKING A BREATHER I've been putting out this newsletter and my price lists of coin boards for more than six years now. They've both had a good run, but now it's time to retire my price lists for the foreseeable future. I'm doing this for the simple reason that the market has matured to the point where there's almost nothing new entering the pipeline. I've been unable to make any large purchases of nice boards for a couple of years now, and the handful of desirable pieces coming my way have been scooped up by want-list customers before I could add them to the next price list. I will continue to maintain want lists, but the present price list is the last for now.

On the positive side price advances for the better material have been remarkable since the 2007 publication of my book. For example, A Whitman First Edition board for Buffalo Nickels grading VF-NM that I sold right afterward for \$33 is now valued at \$100 in VF. That same board, if I could find one today, would move quickly at four times its 2008 price. By updating my value guide annually, I've created very knowledgeable collectors who now outbid me whenever choice pieces come up that I'd like to add to my inventory of boards for sale.

If the availability of coin boards increases over the next year or two I may resume sending out price lists, perhaps as an annual edition coinciding with each year's update to the *Check List & Value Guide*. By the way, I plan to continue issuing that guide to anyone on my mailing list, and I expect that my newsletter will continue as a quarterly. In the meantime my current list includes my entire remaining inventory of boards for sale, and it features a wonderful opportunity to stock up on those missing varieties at heavy discounts of 5%-20%. See the first page of *Coin Boards for Sale #130* for details.

MARKET ACTIVITY eBay continues to be dominated by the usual listings for common boards at ludicrous, BIN (Buy-it-Now) prices (\$50 for a worn Whitman Fourth Edition Buffalo Nickel board, anyone?). These roll over month after month, resulting in no sales and tending to depress enthusiasm for the few sensible listings. One seller had been offering a series of rare Kent and Whitman First Edition boards for sale at the silly opening bid of 97 cents, though this run seems to have finally ended. These were apparently fishing expeditions to solicit BIN offers from serious collectors who then purchased the boards for prices ranging from \$50-100+. I acquired a few of these by contacting the seller outside of eBay and negotiating a price, but then I became fed up with promises that I'd be notified the next time one was available. Instead, the seller just kept putting them on eBay, and I dropped out of the game. My own clearance of common, low-grade boards has netted me several dozen eBay sales at \$9.99 postpaid, and each one provides me a chance to spread the gospel about coin board collecting.

BOOK UPDATES The sole new entry for this quarter is Oberwise O5¢A1, that backing not previously known for the Early Nickel title. In comparing notes with master collector Chris Buck I agreed that the two backing color varieties of Kent board K5¢B2 should be split. It's uncertain which came first, but both are believed to have been original equipment. Therefore, the yellow or off-white backing will be listed as K5¢B2a, and the more conventional tan backing as K5¢B2b. The former is presently unique, so far as I know.

NATIONAL COIN ALBUM BOOK Sales for this splendid book have slowed, but I have several promotional articles in the pipeline. Look for illustrated stories about National and Meghrig coin albums appearing in *The Numismatist*, *COINage* and *The California Numismatist* over the next few months.

ON THE ROAD AGAIN I'll be at the Whitman Baltimore Expo March 27-29, followed by the Central States Numismatic Society Convention in Schaumburg, IL April 23-26 and then the Long Beach Expo June 5-7.

Dave

David W. Lange POB 110022 Lakewood Ranch, FL 34211 941-586-8670 coincollectingboards.com





Buffalo NICKEL COLLECTOR



| | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|---|--|---|--|--|
|  1913 Raised ground |  1913-S Raised ground |  1913-D Raised ground |  1919 61 |  1919 6-S |  1919 6-D |  1927 35 |  1927 3-S |  1927 6-D |
|  1915 No 5 under 61 |  1915 Both kinds 3-S |  1915 Both kinds 9-D |  1920 63 |  1920 10-S |  1920 9-D |  1928 23 |  1928 7-S |  1928 6-D |
|  1914 21 |  1914 2-S |  1914 4-D |  1921 71 |  1921 2-S | |  1929 26 |  1929 8-S |  1929 8-D |
|  1915 21 |  1915 14-S |  1915 9-D |  1922 26 |  1922 6-S | |  1929 23 |  1929 8-S | |
|  1916 63 |  1916 12-S |  1916 13-D |  1924 22 |  1924 1-S |  1924 7-D | |  1931 1-S | |
|  1917 51 |  1917 4-S |  1917 10-D |  1925 28 |  1925 6-S |  1925 7-D |  1924 20 | |  1924 7-D |
|  1918 22 |  1918 5-S |  1918 6-D |  1926 45 |  1926 1-S |  1926 6-D |  1935 |  1935 2 |  1935 D |

The idea is to collect a complete set of nickels in the best available condition.
The first issue of this nickel had the buffalo standing on raised ground.
The numbers under the dates on the card indicate the approximate million coined each year at each mint.
"S" under FIVE CENTS on the coin indicates San Francisco mint—"D," Denver. No mint mark, Philadelphia.
James E. Fraser designed the buffalo nickel. His initials "J.E.F." appear just below the date.

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KENT CO., NEENAH, WIS.
COIN CARDS

Patent Applied for